

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 DPW-01 IO-12 RSR-01 /096 W
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R 260656 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0819

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP CANBERRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 2351

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, VN, AS

SUBJ: VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY SIX REPRESENTATIVES OF
PRG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE PEACE COMMITTEES

REF: CANBERRA 1970

1. AUSTRALIAN RADIO APRIL 26 ANNOUNCED ARRIVAL OF SIX DELEGATES FROM PRG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE PEACE COMMITTEES IN SYDNEY. GROUP WAS APPARENTLY MET BY LEFT WING TRADE LEADER LAURIE CARMICHAEL. GROUP APPARENTLY ARRIVED TWO DAYS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE BUT ARE STILL PROPOSING TO SPEND ABOUT 3 WEEKS TOURING AUSTRALIA.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH DFA OFFICIAL NICHOLSON, HE RE-ITERATED POINT MADE REFTEL THAT GROUP WAS VISITING AUSTRALIA IN UNOFFICIAL CAPACITY AND THAT THEIR VISIT WOULD HAVE NO AFFECT UPON AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONS WITH EITHER NORTH OR SOUTH VIETNAM. HE NOTED DR. JIM CAIRNS WAS NOT AT AIRPORT TO MEET GROUP, POSSIBLY BECAUSE THEY ARRIVED EARLY, BUT ALSO POSSIBLY BECAUSE CAIRNS WAS LOW-KEYING
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GROUP' S VISIT FOR THE MOMENT. IN ANY EVENT, NICHOLSON SAID, LACK OF LARGE RECEPTION FOR GROUP AT AIRPORT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A PLUS FACTOR.

3. NICHOLSON NOTED THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP CARRIED NORTH VIETNAMESE PASSPORTS AND HAD COME THROUGH RANGOON . PREVIOUSLY GOA HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT THAT GROUP PROBABLY WOULD COME BY WAY OF JAKARTA . NICHOLSON NOTED THAY COULD ONLY SPECULATE ABOUT REASONS FOR GROUP' S ITINERARY, ALTHOUGH HE JOKINGLY SAID THEY MIGHT HAVE HAD TO COME VIA PAN AMERICAN OTHERWISE.

4. NICHOLSON PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING NAMES OF THE GROUP WHICH REPRESENT THREE MEMBERS EACH FROM THE PRG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE PEACE COMMITTEES: VIETCONG - NGUYEN VAN TIEN, PRG SPECIAL ENVOY, FORMER DEPUTY LEADER OF PRG DELEGATION IN PARIS AND CURRENTLY MEMBER OF CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE OF NLF. LE HAI, SECRETARY OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEACE COMMITTEE; LE MAI, STUDENT LEADER. NORTH VIETNAM - NGUYEN VAN CHI, MEMBER OF STANDING COMMITTEE, VIETNAM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ; LE DUY VAN, SECRETARY, VIETNAM PEACE COMMITTEE; AND PROFESSOR VU QUANG CHUEN.
RICE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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